



steendruuk van Max Kornicker

Antwerp, Friday morning, July 19, 1851. -

My dear Charles,

This is Louis's letter, written, or rather commenced with my pen, as Louis's eyes are still weak, and I am dressed while she is engaged still in that elaborate diurnal undertaking. Yesterday we despatched from here a long letter via England, addressed to William. Oh, Charles, how you would delight in those old Flemish towns. We are regular fanciers. I thought people did not stare at us (which I understand at) while we were staring into shop windows, and upward to strange ornate gables and steeples. But yesterday we were stopped in the middle of the street in the midst of our favorite occupation, by an odd looking Fleming, who made us stand still while he ran and called a leman a man who spoke a little English. It seemed that the man had been watching our devices and apparently discreet movements, & thought we had lost our way, and so stopped us while he called the man that "spikes the English" to show us. I have come to the conclusion that the Americans are the unprofitest people in the world. Every body here is so perfectly polite and kind, disinterestedly and naturally so. You turn over a shopkeeper's things and after long trial fail to find exactly what suits you. - & when you leave, the shopkeeper will go into the street with you and take all manner of pains to direct you to another shop, where he thinks you will be more fortunate. He thanks you for purchasing the simplest thing, and always bids you good day with as much emphasis, apparently, as if parting with a near friend. You should have seen the kind attentions of a humble apothecary who whose shop we went yesterday morning to get a couple of minute blisters, plasters to put on my temples, - the sedulous care with which he spread & applied them



taking us into his sanctum for the purpose, the fervent wishes ~~with~~ he expressed that they would prove beneficial; and the charge, including a pot of cerate to dress the blisters, was 65 centimes, - a little under a Yankee nine pence. The same in England. Every one is polite, patient and painstaking. The cad always, thanks you and touches his hat when you pay him 3' or 6', as the case may be, for your omnibus ride. The officials at rail roads, small and great (where nothing is paid or expected) are promptly attentive to your every wish and want, & answer pleasantly to your questions, however busy they may be.

Bonn near Rhine, Saturday Evening 20<sup>th</sup> May

We were quite too busy at Antwerp to write, - at least I was. And you see we have "moved on"

At Bourges Lane had the first sight of the interior of a Roman Catholic Cathedral, and a fine one. Here, and at the adjacent <sup>of Notre Dame</sup> church of St. John (especially in the Chapter-house of <sup>the latter</sup> we saw and admired the paintings of the very earliest ~~paintings~~ in oil of the Flemish painters, - those of the Van Eyck's and especially of Hemling, - here are the masterpieces of the latter. And we saw and admired the bell-pew of the Town-house, of course - but as to the chimneys, Langfellow should have heard those of Antwerp, which are fit to be in such a temple as that of St. After dinner (at a capital table I hate, less than a dozen people in a large hall - we sallied out to the Museum - or Gallery of pictures belonging to a Public Academy of Fine Arts, - & saw some good pictures of old masters - especially Van Eyck & Hemling; had another look at the bell-pew of the interior of the church of St. John - of the famous gilt monuments & effigies of Charles the Bold & Mary of Burgundy; also a remarkable fine chimney-piece carved in wood which struck Lane very much, as did the elaborate carved pulpits so common in Belgium.

Well, we left Bourges at 6 o'clock P.M. - rail way to Ghent 1 1/2 hours, found good quarters at the Hotel Royal, - I sallied out the same evening to explore the old town,

and the next morning went with Lane to the Cathedral Church of St. Bavo - as I write in last letter, - saw all the fine pictures, especially the famous one of the Brothers Van Eyck and the first that Lane had ever seen of Parkers - saw the font in which Charles was baptised ~~and~~ saw the bell-pew & the strange old Town-hall. Lane then stayed within doors while I went to the Botanic Garden (did not find Prof. Kichx), hardly as large as ours at Cambridge, and by no means so rich or half so well kept - tho' said to be the best in Belgium; - explored the University Library, and strolled thro' the streets and along the canals (with dinner time); and at evening took the rail road direct for Antwerp, which we reached at 9 P.M. - having by the way plenty of rain to cool the Antwerp air.

Imagine us settled comfortably at Hotel de Parc, Tuesday evening, overlooking the Place Verte, our windows (of a really sumptuous room) ~~overlooked~~ commanding a near and most advantageous view of the finest Cathedral in Belgium, with light enough still to see pretty well - against the sky, the graceful outlines, and much of the light tracing & Gothic work of the goma of a steeple, one of the tallest in the world (403 feet 7 inches) and probably unsurpassed by any for lightness, grace, and the elaborateness of the carved work, Napoleon compared it to Mecklin lace. And such sweet chimneys, every 15 minutes! The chime at the beginning of the hour - (for 5 minutes) still rings in our ears. We were never tired of listening to it.

Thursday Lane went into the Cathedral in the morning; and then a little stroll, ~~and some shopping~~, afterwards she staid still at home till near sunset (I exploring the town with all my might) - when she went out and did a little shopping. I meanwhile had seen the best pictures in all the minor churches, and singled out those of Parkers most important for Lane to see. Friday morning we took thee at the church St. Jacques, where Parkers ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> housed - & one of his most pleasing pictures ornaments the chapel which holds - then the Cathedral, where, unfortunately two of Parkers' masterpieces



via the ~~Ascent~~ Elevation of the Cross & the Descent from the Cross, were gone to be cleared. Next there was still his fine altar piece - the Assumption of the Virgin. - Then we did some shopping, & while Jane rested I took my packages (3 baskets) to the Commissionaire - for shipment to New York by ship. Quincberg, Capt. Jones - paid freight &c. - will write John & give instructions & particulars.

Then Jane & I rode to the Museum or Academy of Painting, & Jane saw, as well as her eyes could let her, the 12 pictures here of Rubens - & 4 or 5 of Van Dyck - and one of Quentin Matsys - the gems of a gallery of the highest value & interest. We longed to spend a week there, - We should have stayed a day longer, but it was now decided that Jane's eyes would not allow her to see any more pictures for the present.

\* We gave up Brussels - which I saw from the upper gallery of the steeple, - with a most noble view, - well worth the ~~long~~ climbing to see, - & leaving at 7 1/2 o'clock - ~~we~~ to break the length of the journey next day - we went on by railway to Malines (Mechlin), where a delay of 3/4 hour enabled me to go up to the Cathedral & walk round it; and thence to Louvain ~~to see steep~~ to sleep.

Saturday morning, I had till ~~scarcely~~ 1/2 past 9 - to go to Cathedral - see pictures & wood carvings, and see the ~~the~~ Town Hall, one of the most elaborate & finest of these buildings extant (of which we bring an engraving); - Jane keeping quiet, - and then we came on, still by Rail-road (now first trying 2<sup>d</sup> class cars - which were very comfortable indeed) thro' Diège & a very picturesque country beyond - near Spa (Verviers) - across the line into Rheinish Prussia - by Six la Chapelle (where I much wanted to stop) & see where Charlemagne was buried, & the relics, &c. - & soon into a level country again - all golden with grain fields - to Cologne (at 5 1/2 P.M.), whose churches, & especially the tall Cathedral were visible at a great distance.

(2)  
Bonn. Monday Evening, July 22<sup>d</sup>

As it was agreed that Jane ought not to try her eyes with the curiosities of Cologne, we agreed that it would be best to do that entirely city, on our way back, when we must needs pass it. So receiving my parcel, sent on from Oxford direct, after a fine ad<sup>o</sup> with a set of people who had charge of the baggage at the Station of Rail-way, & who could understand none of either Jane's or my English or French (tho' Jane's French generally passes current quite readily) we drove thro' the city to the Station of the Bonn railroad, ~~stopping on the~~ But in the way the driver, of his own motion, stopped at the door of the Cathedral, on purpose to allow some comrade of his to extract a franc or two from us by showing it. Finding that we had time enough to take a good look before the train left, we could not resist, and pass this wonder & master piece of true Gothic architecture; which, by the united efforts of most N. German powers is going on towards completion, in the style & plan in which it was commenced 800 or 700 years ago, and in which the choir was finished, & the transepts & nave commenced. Tho' it is most grand and struck Jane with wonder; the grandest thing we ever saw, tho' the nave bears only a temporary roof, at 30 or 40 feet less than the full height. The ancient stained glass comes fully up to our expectations. There never seen the like. And the six modern windows of stained glass presented by the late King of Bavaria, now in their place are truly magnificent, - have caught the character of the old art, and are worthy of the place they occupy; but still most of the colors do not at all equal the ancient ones.



French & Flemish have now given place to the German language. But Englishmen about & their tongue is understood at the National Schools. I had now to secure my acquaintance with German currency, Thalers & Silbergroschen.

We reached the railway station in time for a little refreshment. - took the cars at 7.40, & reached the fine university town of Bonn. when I saw wrote - at 8 3/4 o'clock ~~then~~ Saturday evening = 15 miles - one hour - from Cologne.

Yesterday, Sunday, Jane stayed in her room & took good care of her eyes until nearly evening. I went to the English service in the morning (any quantity of English beer) - wrote & read to Jane in the afternoon. - Walked out with Jane at sunset. - wrote in the evening - after having gone up to Schloss Poppelsdorf to deliver letters to Prof. Trevi-romans, & Dr. Roman. - (Write plain & legibly I cannot) Lovely situation, the Siebergsberg so fine & picturesque. I wish I had time to write you; but cannot - so much I should like to tell you - Jane

Monday (this) morning, Jane much better; but has kept very still till late this afternoon. (I have been busy of course) when we went up to Poppelsdorf, such charming & picturesque view of the Siebergsberg (7 mountains) & the Modesty, to - from the Professor's windows & the Botanic Garden; the museum rich & curious - & parts of the old chateau, in which they are (now surrounded to the university) and less so; The Port. Prof. & Dr. Roman very kind. - some collections to be made ready here for me to examine when we come back so that I must ~~then spend~~ a ~~short~~ day here. - Not home till dusk. & Packed up - Jane to bed. We must go on board steam boat up the Rhine early to-morrow (morn) - Jane's eyes still better.

I wish she could write again, & so will you - as she can write ~~so~~ legibly. - To-morrow we enter on the glories of the Rhine.

Here we were gladdened by your letter, most affectionately, & rejoiced at the good news. - I am much grieved that you were not in time for the wedding. Many thanks for your care about my letters. - Do not send any of them on to me. They will all keep. We do not forget that this is your birth-day, and wish you every happiness always - & think much of you. - Best love to you all - If Jane is up to-morrow, we shall add a short P.S. in the morning. This must go <sup>at once</sup> ~~to-morrow~~, to make sure of next Liverpool steamer - unless such strand. - Yours affectionately A. Gray  
P.S. You will be delighted to know that Jane still scarcely thinks of dyspepsia - eats & digests well, and is evidently gaining in flesh.

Tuesday morn. Many thanks for your letter, dear Charlie, how glad was to get it in a strange land! My eyes are better, but I cannot use them at all yet. I hope soon to be able to write - I thought a great deal of you on your birth-day yesterday - Ever lovingly Jane  
Tenderest love to all -

Receipt to a small  
J. Cunningham

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to G. Living (N.)

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N. S. A.